

John Case
A CHOICE 1607/5754
DROP OF HONEY

FROM THE
ROCK CHRIST:

OR,
A WORD OF ADVICE
TO ALL
SAINTS AND SINNERS.

2 Cor. xiii. 5.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Rom. ix. 30. 31, 32.

The Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith; but Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the Law.

Rom. x. 3, 4.

For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For CHRIST is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

A NEW EDITION.

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TO THE
R E A D E R.

CHRISTIAN READER,

I FIND in this latter day the love of the LORD shining, in some measure, with its pleasant beams in my heart, warming my affections and enflaming my soul, not only to give a spiritual echo in soul-duty to so great a lover as my SAVIOUR is, whose transcendent love passeth knowledge, *Eph. iii. 19.* but also to love and wish well to all ZION'S heaven-born children. I find in this day many poor souls tossed to and fro, ready to be carried away with every wind of doctrine, by the flights of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lay in wait to deceive, *Eph. iv. 14.* and, that there are so many foundations to build upon that are false, upon which much labour is spent in vain; that men are not speaking the truth in love; neither are they growing up into him in all things, who is the Head, even CHRIST, *Eph. iv. 15.* There cannot be a growing in CHRIST, without an union in him. And without an union in him, all that we do is cursed.

Thou wilt find, GENTLE READER, in this ensuing little treatise, if the LORD is pleased to bless the reading of it unto thee, as a still voice behind thee, saying, *This is the way, walk in it; that thou turn not to the right hand, nor to the left.* The way into that pleasant path of soul-justifica-

tion before GOD, is in and through the righteousness of JESUS CHRIST, for all our self-righteousness is as filthy rags; for surely, shall one say, *In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory*, Isaiah xlv. 24, 25. It is only the dying of that Just One for us unjust ones, must bring us to God. He that knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we, who were nothing but sin, might be made the righteousness of GOD in him, 2 Cor. v. 21.

CHRISTIAN READER, Let all that is of old Adam in thee fall down at the foot of CHRIST. He only must have the pre-eminence. All the vessels of this spiritual new-covenant temple, from the cups to the flaggons, must be all hung upon CHRIST. He is to bear the glory. He only is worthy, for he is to build the temple of the LORD, and is to bear the glory. He, by his FATHER's appointment, is the foundation-stone, corner-stone, and is the top-stone. He is the FATHER's fulness of grace and glory. Whatever thy wants be, thou mayest come to him; there is balsam in him fit for cure.

READER, The good LORD help thee to experience this ensuing word of advice, that it may be made by God unto thee like HONEY, sweet to the soul, and health to thy bones, and my soul shall rejoice with thee. Thy brother in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

T. W.



A CHOICE
 DROP OF HONEY
 FROM THE
 ROCK CHRIST.

A WORD of advice to my own heart and thine.—Thou art a professor, and partakest of all ordinances.—Thou dost well; they are glorious privileges. But if thou hast not the blood of CHRIST at the root of thy profession, it will wither and prove but painted pageantry to go to hell in.

If thou retain guilt and self-righteousness under thy profession, those vipers will eat out all the vitals of it. Try, and examine with the greatest strictness every day, what bottom thy profession and hope of thy glory is built upon, whether it was laid by the hand of CHRIST; if not, it will never be able to endure the storm which must come against it. Satan will throw it all down, and great will be the fall thereof, *Matt. vii. 27.*

Glorious professor, thou shalt be winnowed. Every vein of thy profession will be tried to purpose. It is terrible to have it all come tumbling down, and to find nothing but it to bottom upon.

Soaring professor, see to thy waxen wings betimes, which will melt with the heat of temptations. What a misery is it, to trade much, and break at length, and have no stock, no foundation laid for eternity, in thy soul.

Gifted professor, look there be not a worm at the root which will spoil all thy fine gourd, and make it die about thee, in a day of searchings. Look over thy soul daily, and ask—"where is the blood of CHRIST to be seen upon my soul?"—"What righteousness is it that I stand upon to
 A. 3 " be

"be saved? Have I got off my self-righteousness?" Many eminent professors have come at length to cry out, in the sight of the ruin of all their duties, *Undone, undone to all eternity.*

Consider, the greatest sins may be hid under the greatest duties and the greatest terrors. See the wound that sin hath made in thy soul be perfectly cured by the *blood of CHRIST*; not skinned over with duties, humblings, enlargements, &c. Apply what thou wilt besides the *blood of CHRIST*, it will poison the sore. Thou wilt find that sin was never mortified truly, if thou hast not seen *CHRIST* bleeding for thee upon the cross. Nothing can kill it, but the beholding of *CHRIST's* righteousness.

Nature can afford no balsam fit for soul-cure. Healing from duty, and not from *CHRIST*, is the most desperate disease. Poor ragged nature, with all its highest improvements, can never spin a garment fine enough (without spot) to cover the soul's nakedness. Nothing can fit the soul for that use, but *CHRIST's* perfect righteousness.

Whatsoever is of nature's spinning must be all unravelled, before the righteousness of *CHRIST* can be put on. Whatsoever is of nature's putting on, *Satan* will come and plunder it every rag away, and leave the soul naked and open to the wrath of *GOD*. All that nature can do, will never make up the least dram of grace, that can mortify sin, or look *CHRIST* in the face one day. Thou art a professor, goest on hearing, praying, and receiving, yet miserable mayest thou be. Look about thee; didst thou ever see *CHRIST* to this day in distinction from all other excellencies and righteousness in the world, and all them falling before the majesty of his love and grace? *I/a. ii. 17.*

If thou hast seen *CHRIST* truly, thou hast seen pure grace, pure righteousness in him every way
infinite,



infinite, far exceeding all sin and misery. If thou hast seen CHRIST, thou canst trample upon all the righteousness of men and angels, so as to bring thee into acceptance with GOD. If thou hast seen CHRIST, thou wouldst not do a duty without him for ten thousand worlds, 1 Cor. ii. 2. If ever thou hast seen CHRIST, thou sawest him a *Rock*, higher than self-righteousness, *Satan*, and sin, *Psal.* lxi. 2. and this *Rock* doth follow thee, 1 Cor. x. 4. and there will be a continual dropping of honey and grace out of that *Rock* to satisfy thee, *Psal.* lxxxi. 16. Examine, if ever thou hast beheld CHRIST as the only-begotten of the FATHER, full of grace and truth, *John* i. 14. 16. 17. Be sure thou art come to CHRIST, that thou standest upon the ROCK of Ages, hast answered to his call to thy soul, hast closed with him for justification.

Men talk bravely of believing whilst whole and sound; few know it.—CHRIST is the mystery of the scripture; grace the mystery of CHRIST. *Believing* is the most wonderful thing in the world. Put any thing of thy own to it, and thou spoilest it; CHRIST will not so much as look at it for *believing*. When thou believest and comest to CHRIST, thou must leave behind thee thine own righteousness, and bring nothing but sin, (O that is hard!) Thou must leave behind all thy holiness, sanctification, duties, humblings, &c. and bring nothing but thy wants and miseries, else CHRIST is not fit for thee, nor thou for CHRIST. CHRIST will be a pure Redeemer and Mediator, and thou must be an undone sinner, or CHRIST and thou will never agree. It is the hardest thing in the world to take CHRIST *alone* for righteousness; that is, to acknowledge him CHRIST. Join any thing of thine own, and thou dost un-Christ him.

Whatever comes in, when thou goest to *God* for acceptance, besides *CHRIST*, call it antichrist; bid it be gone; make only *CHRIST*'s righteousness triumphant. All besides that is *Babylon*, which must fall, if *CHRIST* stand, and thou shalt rejoice in the day of the fall thereof, *Isa.* i. 10, 11, 12. *CHRIST* alone did tread the wine-press, and there was none with him, *Isa.* lxiii. 3. If thou join anything to *CHRIST*, *CHRIST* will trample upon it in fury and anger, and stain his raiment with the blood thereof. Thou thinkest it easy to believe. Was ever thy faith tried with an hour of temptations, and a thorough sight of sin? Was it ever put to grapple with Satan, and the wrath of *God* lying upon the conscience? When thou wast in the mouth of hell and the grave, then did *God* shew thee *CHRIST* a ransom, a righteousness, &c? Then couldst thou say, *Oh! I see grace enough in CHRIST?* If so, thou mayest say that which is the biggest word in the world, *thou believest*. Untried faith is uncertain faith.

To believing, there must go a clear conviction of sin and the merits of the blood of *CHRIST*, and of *CHRIST*'s willingness to save upon this consideration merely, that thou art a *sinner*; things all harder than to make a world. All the power in nature cannot get so high, in a storm of sin and guilt, really to believe there is any grace, any willingness in *CHRIST* to save. When Satan chargeth sin upon the conscience, then for the soul to charge it upon *CHRIST*.—that is gospel-like; that is to make him *CHRIST*. He serves for that use. To accept *Christ*'s righteousness alone, his blood alone for salvation, that is the sum of the gospel. When the soul, in all duties and distresses, can say, "Nothing but "*CHRIST*, *Christ* alone, for righteousness, justification, sanctification, redemption, 1 *Cor.* i. 30. not
" hum-

"humblings, not duties, not graces, &c." that soul hath got above the reach of the billows.

All temptations, Satan's advantages, and our complainings, are laid in *self-righteousness* and *self-excellency*. God pursueth these, by setting Satan upon thee, as *Laban* pursued after *Jacob* for his images. These must be torn from thee, be as unwilling as thou wilt. These hinder CHRIST from coming in; and till CHRIST comes in, guilt will not go out. Where guilt is, there is hardness of heart. Therefore much guilt argues little, if any thing, of CHRIST.

When guilt is raised up, take heed of getting it allayed any way but by CHRIST's blood; that will tend to hardening. Make CHRIST thy peace, *Eph. ii. 14.* not thy duties, thy tears, &c. Thou mayst destroy CHRIST by duties as well as by sins. Look at CHRIST, and do as much as thou wilt. Stand with all thy weight upon CHRIST's righteousness. Take heed of having one foot on thy own righteousness, another on CHRIST's. Till CHRIST come and sit upon a throne of grace in the conscience, there is nothing but guilt, terrors, secret suspicions, the soul hanging between hope and fear, which is an ungospel-like state.

He that fears to see sin's utmost vileness, the utmost hell of his own heart, he suspects the merits of CHRIST. Be never such a great sinner, 1 *John ii. 1.* try CHRIST to make him thy advocate, and thou shalt find him JESUS CHRIST the righteous. In all doubtings, fears, storms of conscience, look at CHRIST continually: do not argue it with Satan, he desires no better; bid him go to CHRIST, and he will answer him. It is his office to be our advocate: 1 *John ii. 1.* His office is to answer law, as our Surety, *Heb. vii. 22.* His office is to answer justice, as our Mediator, *Gal. iii. 20.* 1 *Tim. ii. 5.* And, he is

sworn to that office, *Heb. vii. 20, 21*. Put CHRIST upon it. If thou wilt do any thing thyself, as satisfaction for sin, thou renouncest CHRIST the righteous, who was made sin for thee, *2 Cor. v. 21*.

Satan may alledge, and corrupt scripture; but he cannot answer scripture. It is CHRIST's word of mighty authority. CHRIST foiled Satan with it, *Matt. iv. 10*. In all the scripture there is not an ill word against a poor sinner, stript of self-righteousness. Nay, it plainly points out this man to be the subject of the grace of the gospel, and none else. Believe but CHRIST's willingness, and that will make thee willing. If thou findest that thou canst not believe, remember it is CHRIST's work to make thee believe. Put him upon it; he works to will and do of his good pleasure, *Phil. ii. 13*. Mourn for thy unbelief, which is setting up of guilt in the conscience above CHRIST, an undervaluing the merits of CHRIST, accounting his blood an unholy, a common and unsatisfying thing.

Thou complaineſt much of thyself—Doth thy sin make thee look more at CHRIST, less at thyself? That is right; else complaining is but hypocrisy. To be looking at duties, graces, enlargements, when thou shouldst be looking at CHRIST, that is pitiful. Looking at them will make thee proud; looking at CHRIST's grace will make thee humble. By grace you are saved, *Eph. ii. 5, 8*. In all thy temptations be not discouraged, *James i. 2*. Those surges may be, not to drown thee, but to heave thee off thyself on the ROCK CHRIST.

Thou mayest be brought low even to the brink of hell, ready to tumble in. Thou canst not be brought lower than the belly of hell. Many saints have been there, even dowsed in hell. Yet, there thou mayest cry; there thou mayest

mayest look towards the holy temple, *Jonah* ii. 4. Into that temple which was built with hands none might enter but purified ones, and with an offering too, *Acts* xxi. 26. But now CHRIST is our temple, sacrifice, altär, high-priest. to whom none must come but sinners, and that without any offering but his own blood once offered, *Heb.* vii. 27.

Remember all the patterns of grace that are in heaven. Thou thinkest, "O! what a monument of grace should I be!" There are many thousands as rich monuments as thou canst be.—The greatest sinner did never surpass the grace of CHRIST. Do not despair. Hope still. When the clouds are blackest, even then look towards CHRIST, the standing pillar of the FATHER'S love and grace, set up in heaven for all sinners to gaze upon continually. Whatsoever Satan or conscience say, do not conclude against thyself. CHRIST shall have the last word. He is judge of quick and dead, and must pronounce the final sentence. His blood speaks reconciliation, *Col.* i. 20. cleansing, *1 John* i. 7. purchase, *Acts* xx. 28, redemption, *1 Pet.* i. 18, 19. purging, *Heb.* ix. 13, 14. remission, *v.* 22. liberty, *Heb.* x. 19. justification, *Rom.* v. 9. nighness to GOD, *Eph.* ii. 13. Not a drop of this blood shall be lost. Stand and hearken what GOD will say, for he will speak peace to his people, that they return no more to folly, *Psal.* lxxxv. 8. He speaks grace, mercy, and peace, *2 Tim.* i. 2. That is the language of the FATHER and of CHRIST. Wait for CHRIST'S appearing as the morning-star, *Rev.* xxii. 6. He shall come as certainly as the morning, as refreshing as the rain, *Hof.* vi. 3.

The sun may as well be hindered from rising, as CHRIST the sun of righteousness, *Mal.* iv. 2. Look not a moment off CHRIST. Look not upon sin, but look upon CHRIST first. When thou mournest

mourneſt for ſin, if thou doſt not ſee CHRIST then, away with it, *Zach. xii. 10.* In every duty look at CHRIST; before duty, to pardon; in duty, to aſſiſt; after duty, to accept. Without this, it is but carnal, careleſs duty. Do not legalize the goſpel, as if part remained for thee to do and ſuffer, and CHRIST were but a Half-Mediator; as if thou muſt bear part of thy own ſin, and make part ſatisfaction. Let ſin break thy heart, but not thy hope in the goſpel.

Look more at juſtification than ſanctification. In the higheſt commands conſider CHRIST, not as an exactor, to require; but as a debtor, an undertaker to work. If thou haſt looked at thy reſolutions, endeavours, workings, duties, qualifications, &c. more than at the merits of CHRIST, it will coſt thee dear. No wonder thou goeſt complaining graces may be evidences; the merits of CHRIST alone without them muſt be the foundation of thy hope to bottom on. CHRIST only can be the hope of glory, *Col. i. 27.*

When we come to God, we muſt bring nothing but CHRIST with us. Any ingredients, or any previous qualifications of our own, will poiſon and corrupt faith. He that builds upon duties, graces, &c. knows not the merits of CHRIST. This makes believing ſo hard, ſo far above nature: if thou beſt, thou muſt every day renounce (as dung and dross, *Phil. iii. 7, 8.*) thy privileges, thy obedience, thy baptiſm, thy ſanctification, thy duties, thy graces, thy tears, thy meltings, thy humblings, and nothing but CHRIST muſt be held up. Every day thy workings, thy ſelf-ſufficiency muſt be deſtroyed. Thou muſt take all out of God's hand. CHRIST is the gift of God, *John iv. 10.* and *iii. 16.* Faith is the gift of God, *Eph. ii. 8.* Pardon is a free gift, *Rom. v. 16.* Ah! how nature ſtorms, frets, rages at this, that all is gift, and it can purchaſe,
nothing

nothing with its actings, and tears and duties, that all workings are excluded and of no value in heaven.

If nature had been to contrive the way of salvation, it would rather have put it into the hands of saints and angels to sell it, than into the hands of CHRIST who gives freely, whom therefore it suspects. Nature would set up a way to purchase by doing; therefore it abominates the merits of CHRIST, as the most destructive thing to it. Nature would do any thing to be saved, rather than go to CHRIST, or close with *Christ*, and owe all to him. *Christ* will have nothing, but the soul would thrust somewhat of his own upon CHRIST. Here is that great controversy. Consider—didst thou ever yet see the merits of CHRIST, and the infinite satisfaction made by his death? Didst thou see this when the burden of sin and the wrath of *God* lay heavy on thy conscience? That is grace! The greatness of *Christ's* merits is not known, but to a poor soul in deep distress. Slight convictions will but have slight, low prizings of CHRIST's blood and merits.

Despairing sinner! Thou lookest on thy right hand and on thy left, saying, *Who will shew us any good?* Thou art tumbling over all thy duties and professions to patch up a righteousness to save thee. Look at CHRIST now; look to him and be saved, all the ends of the earth, *Isa.* xlv. 22. There is none else. *He* is a Saviour, and there is none besides him, *ver.* 21. Look any where else, and thou art undone. *God* will look at nothing but CHRIST; and thou must look at nothing else. CHRIST is lifted up on high, as the brazen serpent in the wilderness, that sinners at the ends of the earth, the greatest distance, may see him, and look towards him, *John* iii. 14, 15. The least sight of him will be saving; the least touch, healing to thee. And *God* intends thou shouldst

shouldst look on him; for he hath set him upon a high throne of glory, in the open view of all poor sinners. Thou hast infinite reason to look on him, no reason at all to look off him. He is meek and lowly of heart, *Matt. xi. 29.* He will do that himself which he requires of his creature, *viz.* bear with infirmities, *Rom. xv. 1.* No pleasing himself; not standing upon points of law, *ver. 2.* He will restore with the spirit of meekness, *Gal. vi. 2.* and bear thy burdens, *ver. 2.* He will forgive; not only till seven times, but seventy times seven, *Matt. xviii. 21, 22.* It put the faith of the apostle to it to believe this, *Luke xvii. 4, 5.* Because we are hard to forgive; we think CHRIST is hard.

We see sin great.—We think CHRIST doth so, and measure infinite love with our line, infinite merits with our sins, which is the greatest pride and blasphemy, *Psal. ciii. 11, 12.* *Isa. xl. 15.* Hear what he saith, “I have found a ransom,” *Job. xxxiii. 24.* “In him I am well pleased,” *Matt. iii. 17.* GOD will have nothing else. Nothing else will do thee good, or satisfy conscience, but CHRIST, who satisfied the Father. GOD doth all upon the account of CHRIST. Thy deserts are hell, wrath, rejection: CHRIST’s deserts are life, pardon, and acceptance. He will not only shew thee the one, but he will give thee the other. It is CHRIST’s own glory and happiness to pardon. Consider—while CHRIST was upon the earth, he was more among publicans and sinners, than among *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, his professed adversaries, for they were righteous ones. It is not as thou imaginest, that his state in glory makes him neglectful, scornful to poor sinners. No: He hath the same heart now in heaven. He is GOD, and changeth not. He is *the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world*, *John i. 29.* He went through all thy temptations,

dejections, sorrows, desertions, rejections, *Matt.* iv. 3. to 12, and 26. *Mark* xv. 34. *Luke* xxii. 44. *Matt.* xxvi. 38. He hath drunk the bitterest of the cup, and left thee the sweet : the condemnation is out. CHRIST drunk up all the FATHER's wrath at one draught ; and nothing but salvation is left for thee. Thou sayest, thou canst not believe, thou canst not repent—Fitter for CHRIST, if thou hast nothing but sin and misery. Go to CHRIST with all thy impenitency and unbelief, to get faith and repentance from him ; that is glorious. Tell CHRIST, " Lord, I have brought no righteousness, no grace to be accepted in or justified by ; " I am come for thine, and must have it." We would be bringing to CHRIST, and that must not be. Not a penny of nature's highest improvements will pass in heaven. Grace will not stand with works, *Tit.* iii. 4. *Rom.* xi. 6. That is a terrible point to nature, which cannot think of being stripped of all, not having a rag of duty or righteousness left to look at. Self-righteousness and self-sufficiency are the darlings of nature, which she preserves as her life. That makes CHRIST seem ugly to nature. Nature cannot desire him. He is just opposite to all nature's glorious interests. Let nature but make a gospel, and it would make it quite contrary to CHRIST. It would be to the just, the innocent, the holy, &c. CHRIST makes the gospel for thee, that is, for needy sinners, the ungodly, the unrighteous, the accursed. Nature cannot endure to think the gospel is only for sinners : it will rather chuse to despair than to go to CHRIST upon such terms. When nature is but put to it by guilt or wrath, it will go to its old haunts of self-righteousness, self-goodness, &c. An infinite power must cast down those strong-holds. Not but the self-justiciary stands excluded out of the gospel. CHRIST will look

at the most abominable sinner before him; because to such an one CHRIST cannot be made justification; he is no sinner. To say, in compliment, *I am a sinner*, is easy. But to pray with the publican indeed, *Lord, be merciful unto me a sinner*, is the hardest prayer in the world. It is easy to say, *I believe in Christ*. But to see CHRIST full of grace and truth, *of whose fulness thou mayst receive grace for grace*; that is the saying. It is easy to profess CHRIST with the mouth. But, to confess him with the heart, (as *Peter, to be the Christ, the Son of the living God*, the alone Mediator) that is above flesh and Blood. Many call CHRIST Saviour; few know him so. To see grace and salvation in CHRIST, in the greatest sight in the world. None can do that, but at the same time they shall see that glory and salvation to be theirs. Sights will cause applications. I may be ashamed to think, in the midst of so much profession, I have known little of the blood of CHRIST, which is the main thing of the gospel. A Christless, formal profession, will be the blackest sight, next to hell, than can be. Thou mayest have many good things; and yet one thing may be wanting, that may make thee go away sorrowful from CHRIST. Thou hast never sold all that thou hast, never parted with all thine own righteousness, &c. Thou mayest be high in duty, and yet a perfect enemy and adversary to CHRIST, in every prayer, in every ordinance. Labour after sanctification to thy utmost; but make not a CHRIST of it to save thee; if so, it must come down one way or other. CHRIST's infinite satisfaction, not thy sanctification, must be thy justification before God. When the Lord shall appear terrible out of his holy place, fire shall consume that as hay and stubble. This will be sound religion, "only to bottom ALL up-
" on the everlasting mountains of God's love and
grace.

" grace in CHRIST, to live continually in the
 " sight of CHRIST's infinite righteousness and
 " merits (they are sanctifying, without them the
 " heart is carnal) and in those fights to see the full
 " vileness, yet littleness of sin, and to see all par-
 " doned; in those fights to pray, hear, &c. see-
 " ing thy polluted SELF and all thy weak per-
 " formances accepted continually; in those fights
 " to trample upon all thy self-glories, righteouf-
 " ness, privileges, as abominable, and be found
 " continually in the righteousness of CHRIST
 " only, rejoicing in the ruins of thy own righte-
 " ousness, the spoiling of all thy own excellencies,
 " that CHRIST alone, as Mediator, may be exalt-
 " ed in his throne; mourning over all thy duties
 " (how glorious soever) which thou hast not per-
 " formed in the sight and sense of CHRIST's
 " love." Without the blood of CHRIST on the
 conscience, all is dead service, *Heb. ix. 14.*

That opinion of free-will (so cried up) will be
 easily confuted (as it is by scripture) in the heart
 of him who hath had any spiritual dealing with
Jesus Christ, as to the application of his merits,
 and subjection to his righteousness.—CHRIST is
 every way too magnificent a person for poor na-
 ture to close withal, or to apprehend.—*Christ* is
 so infinitely holy, nature durst never look at him;
 so infinitely good, nature can never believe him
 to be such, when it lies under full sights of sin.
Christ is too high and glorious for nature so much
 as to touch. There must be a divine nature first
 put into the soul, to make it lay hold on him
 who lies so infinitely beyond the sight or reach of
 nature. *That Christ* which natural free-will can
 apprehend, is but a natural *Christ* of a man's own
 making, not the *Father's Christ*, not *Jesus the Son*
 of

of the living GOD, to whom none can come without the FATHER's drawing, *John vi. 44, 45.*

Search the scriptures daily, as mines of gold, wherein the heart of CHRIST is laid. Watch against constitutional sins, see them in their vileness, and they shall never break out into act. Keep always an humble, empty, broken frame of heart, sensible of any spiritual miscarriage, observant of all inward workings, fit for the highest communications. Keep not guilt in the conscience, but apply the blood of CHRIST immediately. GOD chargeth the sin and guilt upon thee, to make thee look to CHRIST, the brazen serpent.

Judge not CHRIST's love by providence, but by promises. Bless GOD for shaking off false foundations, and for any way whereby he keeps the soul awakened and looking after CHRIST. Better sicknesses, temptations, than security and slightness.

A flighty spirit will turn a profane spirit, and will sin and pray too—Slightness is the bane of profession. If it be not rooted out of the heart, by constant and serious dealings with, and beholdings of CHRIST in duties, it will grow more strong and more deadly by being under church-ordinances.—Measure not thy graces by others attainments, but by scripture-trials. Be serious and exact in duty, having the weight of it upon the heart; but be as much afraid of taking comfort from duties as from sins. Comfort from any hand but CHRIST is deadly. Be much in prayer, or you will never keep up much communion with GOD. As you are in closet-prayer, so you will be in all other ordinances.

Reckon not duties by high expressions, but by low frames, and the beholdings of CHRIST. Tremble at duties and gifts. It was the saying of a great saint, *he was more afraid of his duties than his sins*: the one often made him proud, the other

others always made him humble. Treasure up manifestations of CHRIST's love, they make the heart low for CHRIST, too high for sin.—Slight not the lowest, meanest evidences of grace ; GOD may put thee to make use of the lowest as thou thinkest ; even that 1 *John*-iii. 14. may be worth a thousand worlds to thee.

Be true to truth ; but not turbulent and scornful. Restore such as are fallen ; help them up again with all the bowels of CHRIST. Set the broken disjointed bones with the grace of the gospel. High professor, despise not weak saints. Thou mayest come to wish to be in the condition of the meanest of them. Be faithful to others infirmities, but sensible of thy own. Visit sick-beds and deserted souls much ; they are excellent scholars in experience.

Abide in your calling. Be dutiful to all relations as to the LORD. Be content with little of the world : little will serve. Think every little of the earth much, because unworthy the least. Think much of heaven ; not little, because CHRIST is so rich and free. Think every one better than thyself, and ever carry self-loathing about thee, as one fit to be trampled upon by all saints. See the vanity of the world, and the consumption that is upon all things, and love nothing but CHRIST. Mourn to see so little of CHRIST in the world, so few needing him : trifles please them better. To a secure soul CHRIST is but a fable, the scriptures but a story. Mourn to think how many are under baptism and church-order, that are not under grace, looking much after duty, obedience ; little after CHRIST, little versed in grace. Prepare for the cross ; welcome it ; bear it triumphantly like CHRIST's cross ; whether scoffs, mockings, jeers, contempts, imprisonments, &c. But see it be CHRIST's cross, not thy own.

Sin

Sin will hinder from glory in the cross of *Christ*. Omitting little truths against light may breed hell in the conscience, as well as committing the greatest sins against light. If thou hast been taken out of the belly of hell into CHRIST's bosom, and made to sit among princes in the household of God.— Oh! how shouldst thou live as a pattern of mercy! Redeemed, restored soul, what infinite sums dost thou owe CHRIST! With what singular frames must thou walk and do every duty! on Sabbaths, what praising days, singing of hallelujahs should they be to thee! Church-fellowship; what a heaven, a being with CHRIST; and angels, and saints communion! What a drowning the soul in eternal love, as a burial with CHRIST; and dying to all things besides him! Every time thou thinkest of CHRIST, be astonished and wonder: and when thou seest sin, look at CHRIST's grace which did pardon it: and when thou art proud, look at CHRIST's grace, that shall humble and strike thee down in the dust.

Remember CHRIST's time of love when thou wast naked, *Ezek.* xvi. 8, 9. and then he chose thee. Canst thou ever have a proud thought?— remember whose arms supported thee from sinking, and delivered thee from the lowest hell, *Psal.* lxxxvi. 13. and shout in the ears of angels and men, *Psal.* cxlviii. and for ever sing "Praise, praise, " grace, grace." Daily repent and pray; and walk in the sights of grace, as one that hath the anointings of grace upon thee. Remember thy sins, *Christ's* pardonings; thy deserts, *Christ's* merits; thy weakness, *Christ's* strength; thy pride, *Christ's* humility; thy many infirmities, *Christ's* restorings; thy guilts, *Christ's* new applications of his blood; thy failings, *Christ's* raising up; thy wants, *Christ's* fulness; thy temptations, *Christ's* tenderness; thy vileness, *Christ's* righteousness.

Blessed

Blessed soul! whom CHRIST shall find not having on his own righteousness, *Phil. iii. 9.* but having his robes washed and made white in the blood of the LAMB, *Rev. vii. 14.* Woeful, miserable professor! that hath not the gospel within. Rest not in church-trials; thou mayest pass that, and be cast away in CHRIST's day of trial. Thou mayest come to baptism, and never come to *Jesus and the blood of sprinkling*, *Heb. xii. 24.* Whatever workings or attainments, short of CHRIST's blood, merits righteousness, (the main object of the gospel) fall short of the gospel, and leave the soul in a condition of doubtings and questionings: and doubtings, if not looked unto betimes, will turn to a slowness of spirit, one of the most dangerous of frames.

Trifle not with ordinances. Be much in meditation and prayer. Wait diligently upon all hearing opportunities. We have need of doctrine, reproof, exhortation, consolation, as the tender herbs, and the grass hath of the rain, the dew, the small rain, and the showers, *Deut. xxxii. 2.* Do all thou doest as soul-work unto CHRIST, *Zach. vii. 5, 6.* as immediately dealing with CHRIST JESUS, as if he were looking on thee, and thou on him, and fetch all thy strength from him.

Observe what holy motions you find in your soul to duties. Prize the least good thought thou hast of CHRIST, the least good word thou speakest of him sincerely from the heart. Rich mercy! O, bless God for it! Observe, if every day you have the DAY-SPRING from on high, with his morning dews of mourning for sin, constantly visiting thee, *Luke i. 78.* Have you the bright Morning-star, with *fresh* influences of grace and peace, constantly arising? *Rev. xxii. 16.* and CHRIST sweetly greeting the soul in all duties?

duties? Whas duty makes not more spiritual, will make more carnal; what doth not quicken and humble, will deaden and harden.

Judas may have the sop, the outward privilege of baptism, the supper, the church-fellowship, &c. but *John* leaned on *Christ's* bosom, *John* xiii. 23. That is the gospel-ordinance-posture, in which we should pray, and hear, and perform all duties. Nothing but lying in that bosom will dissolve hardness of heart, and make thee to mourn kindly for sin, and cure slightness and ordinariness of spirit (that gangreen in profession) that will humble indeed, and make the soul cordial to *Christ*, and sin vile to the soul, yea, transform the ugliest piece of hell into the glory of *Christ*. Never think thou art right as thou shouldst be, a christian of any attainment, until thou come to this, always to see and feel thyself lying in the bosom of *Christ*, who is in the bosom of his Father, *John* i. 18. Come and move the Father for sights of *Christ*, and you will be sure to speed. You can come with no request that pleaseth him better. He gave him out of his own bosom for that very end, to be held up before the eyes of all sinners, as the everlasting monuments of his FATHER's love.

Looking at the natural sun weakeneth the eye. The more you look at CHRIST the SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, the stronger and clearer will the eye of faith be. Look but at CHRIST, you will love him, and live on him. Think on him continually. Keep the eye constantly upon CHRIST's blood, or every blast of temptation will shake you. If you will see sin's sinfulness, to loath it and mourn, do not stand looking upon sin, but look upon CHRIST first, as suffering and satisfying. If you would see your graces, your sanctification, do not stand gazing upon them,
but

but look at CHRIST's righteousness in the first place, (see the SON, and you see all) look at your graces in the second place.

When you act faith, what you first look at, that you expect settlement from, and make it the bottom of your hope. Go to CHRIST in sights of your sin and misery, not of your grace and holiness. Have nothing to do with thy graces and sanctification (they will but veil CHRIST) till thou hast seen CHRIST first. He that looks upon CHRIST through his graces, is like one that sees the sun in water, which wavereth and moves as the water doth. Look upon CHRIST only as shining in the firmament of the FATHER's love and grace, then you will see him in his own glory, which is unspeakable. Pride and unbelief will put you upon seeing somewhat in yourself first; but faith will have to do with none but CHRIST, who is inexpressibly glorious, and must swallow up thy sanctification as well as thy sin; for GOD made him both for us, and we must make him both, 1 Cor. i. 30. 2 Cor. v. 21. He that sets up his sanctification to look at, to comfort him, he sets up the greatest idol, which will strengthen his doubts and fears. Do but look off CHRIST, and presently (like *Peter*) you sink in doubts.

A *Christian* never wants comfort, but by breaking the order and method of the gospel, looking on his own, and looking off CHRIST's perfect righteousness; which is to choose rather to live by candle-light than by the light of the sun. The honey that you suck from your own righteousness will turn into perfect gall; and the light that you take from *that* to walk in will turn into black night upon the soul. Satan is tempting thee, by putting thee to plod about thy own grace, to get comfort from that. Then the FATHER comes and points thee to CHRIST's grace, (as rich and glorious

glorious, infinitely pleasing him) and biddest thee study CHRIST's righteousness; (and his biddings are enablings) that is a blessed motion, a sweet whispering, checking thy unbelief. Follow the least hint; close with much prayer; prize it as an invaluable jewel; it is an earnest of more to come. Again,

If you would pray, and cannot, and so are discouraged, see CHRIST praying for you, using *his interest* with the FATHER for you, *John* xiv. 16. and *chap.* xvii. If you be troubled, see CHRIST your *peace*, *Eph.* ii. 14, leaving you *peace* when he went up to heaven, again and again charging you not to be troubled, no not in the least (sinfully troubled) so as to obstruct thy comfort or thy believing, *John* xiv. 1, 27. He is now upon the throne, having spoiled upon his cross (in the lowest state of his humiliation) all whatsoever can hurt or annoy thee. He hath born all thy sins, sorrows, troubles, temptations, &c. and his gone to prepare mansions for thee.

Thou who hast seen CHRIST *all*, and thyself absolutely nothing, who makest CHRIST all thy life, and art dead to all righteousness besides, thou art the CHRISTIAN, one highly beloved and who hath found favour with GOD, a favourite of Heaven. Do CHRIST this one favour for all his love to thee, love his poor saints and churches, (the meanest, the weakest, notwithstanding any difference in judgment) they are engraven on his heart (as the names of the children of *Israel* on *Aaron's* breast-plate, *Exod.* xxiii. 21.) Let them be so on thine. *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee, Psal.* cxxii. 6.

F I N I S.

